

To: plavigne@mt.gov[plavigne@mt.gov]; bbaer@mt.gov[bbaer@mt.gov]; GrantWeaver[Grantweaver@thewaterplanetcompany.com]
From: Laidlaw, Tina
Sent: Wed 9/2/2015 5:42:08 PM
Subject: FW: Waste Water Treatment Plant Optimization Report
8 case studies on implementing low-cost modification to improve potw nutrient reduction-combined_508_-_august.pdf

Hey Guys,

Attached is a copy of EPA's draft report on low cost improvements to address nutrients. Since Montana's optimization work was the impetus for this document, I wanted to make sure you guys had seen it. The take-home message is that there are low-cost options to reduce nutrients (particularly nitrogen) and energy savings are an additional benefit. The report is still draft and EPA is soliciting information on additional case studies. See details below for where to submit comments and the comment deadline. I would also encourage you to review the conclusions section and provided feedback on the summary recommendations.

While it's not perfect, we intend to use the document to encourage states to explore optimization as an option. Curious to hear your thoughts/ reactions and wanted to highlight the opportunity to provide details on other case studies. The report could really benefit from that.

Call or email with any questions. Thanks for getting this going!

Tina

P.S. Paul, would you please make sure I have Bill's correct email address? Thanks!

Tina Laidlaw

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10 West 15th St., Suite 3200

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phone: (406) 457-5016

From: Garcia, Bert

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 12:14 PM

To: George Mathieus; Kark Rockeman; Kevin Frederick - WY DEQ (kevin.frederick@wyo.gov); Patrick J. Pfaltzgraff (patrick.j.pfaltzgraff@state.co.us); Walt Baker; kelli.buscher@state.SD.us

Cc: Laidlaw, Tina; Spence, Sandra; Rathbone, Colleen; Bahrman, Sarah

Subject: Waste Water Treatment Plant Optimization Report

State Water Directors,

This note is to call your attention to a recently released report noting the significant nutrient reductions that can be achieved with low-cost optimization.

The cost of reducing point source nutrient loads is widely discussed and often cited as a barrier to making water quality improvements. This report compiles examples of individual plants and operators taking the initiative to adjust their operational processes, at low cost, and achieve remarkable nitrogen load reductions. We encourage you to review the findings in this report and hope you will consider optimization as another possible tool in your state's efforts to reduce nutrient pollution.

We've distributed this report at the management and staff level, and I also want you to be aware of these results. I recommend reading the executive summary.

Here's a link to the report: <http://www2.epa.gov/nutrient-policy-data/reports-and-research#reports>

EPA Region 8 encourages western states to consider optimization as a valuable tool to help reduce nutrients.

- EPA will host a webinar highlighting the report findings. It's currently planned for October.

- Nutrient programs in several Region 8 states (notably Montana and Utah) are offering on-site technical assistance or multi-day workshops for POTWs interested in optimizing their plants. Through on-site assistance, POTWs learn how they can modify their current infrastructure and operational procedures to optimize the plant to reduce nutrient loading in the discharge. Results of these efforts support the conclusions described above. There are not EPA funds specifically allocated to support optimization efforts. However, funds to support Montana's optimization activities were generated from a fee the state charges to recipients receiving Clean Water SRF loans. Other Region 8 states collect a similar fee which may be a funding option for states wishing to promote optimization activities.

- EPA Region 8 is also exploring avenues to sponsor an optimization workshop in the Region.

We are interested in your thoughts on this concept and input on suggested next steps.

Tina Laidlaw is our regional contact for optimization and may be reached at the email address above. Attached is a memo sent to the Regions when the report was released.

Bert Garcia

Director, Ecosystems Protection Program

EPA Region 8

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Draft Report Released and Comments Requested-- Case Studies on Low-Cost Modifications to Improve Nutrient Reduction at WWTPs, Version 1.0

FROM: Deborah Nagle, Director

Water Permits Division

Office of Wastewater Management

Tom Wall, Director

Assessment and Watershed Protection Division

Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds

TO: EPA Regional Water Division Directors

We are pleased to announce release of a draft report, “Case Studies on Implementing Low-Cost Modifications to Improve Nutrient Reduction at Wastewater Treatment Plants: Draft Version 1.0.” The report is a collaborative product of OWOW, OWM and OST, developed in response to requests from EPA Regional managers for documentation of low-cost opportunities for municipalities to reduce nutrient pollution. See <http://www2.epa.gov/nutrient-policy-data/reports-and-research#reports>

As many studies have shown, nutrient pollution is one of America’s costliest and most challenging water quality problems. However, many of the nation’s wastewater plants were not designed for nutrient removal and major retrofits may be a significant hurdle. This report showcases communities where lower cost plant modifications can reduce nitrogen discharge levels (ranging from about 20% to 70%), under specific circumstances. Two case studies

document low-cost phosphorus reduction of 40-58%. In many cases, facilities reduced energy consumption and lowered operational costs. This report documents optimization techniques through empirical example at specific plants. It does not address site-specific design, engineering or cost factors for other facilities. These case studies are not appropriate for setting permit requirements; such requirements should be established by permit directors in accordance with applicable CWA and state requirements.

The EPA is interested in learning of additional communities' successes and plans to update this document. We will distribute the document broadly and invite interested parties to comment and recommend additional case studies by December 15, 2015, for the next version of this report.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at wall.tom@epa.gov, 202-564-4179; nagle.deborah@epa.gov, 202-566-1185; or ask your staff to contact Katharine Dowell at dowell.katharine@epa.gov, 202-564-1515; or send an email message to POTWOptiNP@epa.gov.

Thank you,

cc: Julia Anastasia, ACWA

Mike Tate, Kansas DHE

Adam Schnieders, Iowa DNR

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